



**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 13 through 15 without prejudice and without dedication or abandonment of the subject matter thereof.

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**REMARKS**

The present amendment is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 25, 2003, in which the Examiner required an election between Group I, Claims 1 through 12, drawn to an apparatus and method, and Group II, Claims 13 through 15, drawn to an apparatus.

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I represented in Claims 1 through 12 without traverse. In so electing, Applicants reserve the right to submit one or more divisional applications directed to non-elected embodiment(s).

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-624-3947 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding *before* issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.



Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: **May 21, 2003**

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